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THE EPWORTH PERSPECTIVE

Welcome to our very first monthly newsletter! We will share plenty of highlights and give you a front row view of our organization so you can experience much of what we do on a continuous basis.

Epworth has embraced many opportunities throughout the decades - from award-winning programs to all-encompassing services - and now is the time to share these wins with all of you.

So get ready to enjoy our progress - keep in mind that the best is yet to be!
BITS & PIECES
Here's what's happening in our Epworth community:

A Welcome Addition

We recently announced Sarah Baiocchi as our new board chair and added Stephen Hoven, Nalin Kulasekara, and Jennifer Morgan to our Epworth board.

Sarah is the Regional Vice President of Operations & Finance for Products at Centene Corporation, with nearly 20 years of finance background.

Stephen is retired from SSM Health, having served as System Vice President for Government Affairs and Public Policy for 20 years.

Nalin is the Vice President of Operations for Supply Chain for SSM Health and has worked for the organization for nearly 20 years.

Jennifer is the Vice President of Finance and Treasury at EyeCare Partners with 20 years of finance experience.

Not Too Trivial

More than $12,000 was raised at our first annual Epworth Trivia Night on February 15th! All proceeds will benefit the youth utilizing our programs and services. Thanks to everyone who attended for their support... and their trivia knowledge! We sure learned a lot!

Congratulations to Team #7 on their victory!
Sneakers for Souls
Tuesday, March 17th at 4:00pm
7520 Natural Bridge Road, Normandy, MO

Check out the grand opening of the new Sneaker Outlet thanks to our recent join effort with Sneakers with Soul. Youth visiting our Drop-In Center now have the opportunity to be fitted for new (and free!) sneakers from major footwear manufacturers like Adidas.

"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."
- Sherry Anderson

Third Annual Horses & Hats Derby Party
Saturday, May 2nd, 2020 from 3:00pm to 7:00pm
The Legends Country Club in Eureka, MO

Delicious derby-themed appetizers, an open bar featuring bourbon tastings, bourbon pulls, and refreshing mint juleps, all with a live viewing of the annual Kentucky Derby - it sounds like a party that you won't want to miss!

All proceeds benefit the youth that Epworth tirelessly serves each and every day.

Click here to purchase tickets or go to www.epworth.org/derby-party. Please feel free to contact us at development@epworth.org with any questions!

A HELPING HAND

Volunteering and much more!

Welcome, Brittany!

Please give a big Epworth welcome to Brittany McIntyre, Epworth’s new Development Coordinator. Brittany originally started at Epworth a little less than a year with with the Family Support Network. She was a volunteer with Epworth prior to working here and has lived in St. Louis for most of her life!

Some fun facts about Brittany: her husband still volunteers with Epworth, she has a super cute pup named Wendy, she loves traveling, and she’s incredibly excited to serve St. Louis youth in the community through her work at Epworth.

Interested?

If you would like to volunteer, please call us at (314) 918-3396 or email us at volunteers@epworth.org. We’d love to have you - individuals or groups welcome!
Meet Andre

Andre entered the foster care system when he was just four years old. Bullied by other children who made fun of him for his skin color and by calling him an "orphan", he struggled with behavioral challenges and had a lack of much needed support. Andre bounced around from different foster homes to residential facilities, going to the Epworth Drop-in Center as a teenager to eat meals and feel safe. As he got older, Andre began engaging in life skills education through the Drop-In Center and when he graduated high school, Epworth connected him with employment opportunities.

At 21 years old, though, Andre aged out of foster care and became homeless, left to couch surf or sleep in vacant buildings. He continued to go to the Drop-In Center daily to do laundry and take showers, where the Epworth team was able to refer him to the then newly-opened Intrada supportive housing program for young adults who have exited foster care.

In October 2018, Andre moved into his own studio apartment at Intrada. He soon secured full-time employment working in security and eventually pursued a career in CDL truck driving, with his case manager working with him the whole way to find training programs and financial assistance. In December of 2019, Andre passed his CDL driver’s test and is now a full-time driver for a major company. The best part? All on his own, Andre is currently earning well over St. Louis’ living wage and has full job benefits.

"Epworth helped me get on my feet."

"Epworth helped me get on my feet. If you use what's available here, you can see your life change in a positive way." Andre added, "I'm finally taking myself seriously and starting a career. I feel like I'm learning how to navigate the responsibilities of being an adult, and I know I'm on a path that I want to be on."